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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 008198

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: EMBASSY AMMAN REQUEST FOR POST LANGUAGE PROGRAM
DIRECT FUNDING INITIATIVE

REF: FSINFATC 2356

1. EMBASSY AMMAN WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE'S DIRECT FUNDING INITIATIVE (DFI). POST HAS REALIZED IMPORTANT AND TANGIBLE BENEFITS FROM DFI FUNDING IN PREVIOUS YEARS. AT THIS HIGH THREAT POST, DOZENS OF EMPLOYEES AND EFM'S SUPPORT CRITICAL U.S. GOALS SUCH AS THE EMERGENCE OF A FREE, STABLE, AND PROSPEROUS IRAQ, THE EXPANSION OF DEMOCRACY AND REFORM THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM, AND DFI HAS MADE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THEIR MORALE AND QUALITY OF LIFE AS THEY GO ABOUT THESE MISSIONS. DFI HAS EXPANDED THE POST LANGUAGE PROGRAM (PLP) TO MANY WHO COULD NOT HAVE PARTICIPATED OTHERWISE. PARTICIPANTS EMPLOYED AT THE MISSION ARE UNANIMOUS IN EXPRESSING THAT THE PLP HAS ENHANCED THEIR WORK PRODUCT AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS WITH KEY POST CONTACTS. EFM PARTICIPANTS NOT WORKING AT POST AGREE THAT THE PLP HAS GREATLY INCREASED THEIR ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO INTERACT WITH JORDANIANS AND ENHANCED THEIR SENSE OF PERSONAL SECURITY. LOOKING TO 2006, EMBASSY AMMAN SEEKS TO MAINTAIN THIS STRONG INTEREST IN PLP ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY AS POST CONTINUES ITS EXTENSIVE SUPPORT OF U.S. EFFORTS IN IRAQ, INCLUDING THE LARGE NUMBERS OF TDYERS WHO USE AMMAN AS THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BASE. CONSEQUENTLY, IN THIS YEAR'S REQUEST, POST SEEKS TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF LANGUAGE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND TAILOR INSTRUCTION TOWARDS PARTICIPANTS' SPECIFIC NEEDS.

2. SITUATIONAL LEARNING/FIELD TRIPS: THANKS TO DFI, POST IS VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE A FULL-TIME PLP INSTRUCTOR WHO MANAGES A DYNAMIC MIX OF INTERACTIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYEES IN NON-LANGUAGE DESIGNATED POSITIONS AND EFM'S. THESE OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE REGULAR FIELD TRIPS TO RESTAURANTS, COMMERCIAL STORES, RETAIL MARKETS, AND OTHER SITES WHERE STUDENTS SHARPEN THEIR ARABIC READING AND SPEAKING SKILLS IN NATIVE SPEAKER SETTINGS. PRIOR TO THESE TRIPS, THE INSTRUCTOR CONDUCTS SPECIAL VOCABULARY DRILLS AND SPONTANEOUS "ROLE PLAYS" WITH SMALL GROUPS OF STUDENTS TO HELP PREPARE THEM. THE INSTRUCTOR CONTINUES TO IMPROVE INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO MEET DEMANDS FOR ENHANCING EMPLOYEE JOB PERFORMANCE. PAST EXAMPLES HAVE INCLUDED THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORDS LISTS, PHRASE CARDS AND ROLE-PLAYS SPECIFIC TO SELECT PROFESSIONAL TASKS AND THEMES SUCH AS SECURITY, TRANSPORTATION AND TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS. WITH A NEW FOCUS ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT ALL EMPLOYEES CAN MAKE TO MISSION PUBLIC DIPLOMACY EFFORTS, POST ANTICIPATES THAT SOME INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES MAY BE DIRECTED TO HELPING EMPLOYEES COMFORTABLY ADDRESS - IN ARABIC - CERTAIN ASPECTS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY AND VALUES THAT FREQUENTLY ARISE IN CONVERSATION WITH NATIVE SPEAKERS.

3. LAST YEAR'S DFI FUNDING PROVIDED \$12,800 FOR INTERACTIVE INSTRUCTION/FIELD TRIPS - OR APPROXIMATELY 16.5 HOURS PER WEEK FOR 48 WEEKS AT A RATE OF \$16/HOUR. HIGH EMBASSY STAFFING LEVELS AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PLP HAVE RESULTED IN CONTINUED STRONG DEMAND FOR PLP PARTICIPATION. ADDITIONALLY, MORE STUDENTS HAVE MOVED BEYOND THE COMPLETE BEGINNER STAGE, AND CAN NO LONGER BE COMBINED WITH INCOMING/NEW STUDENTS. POST SEEKS TO MEET THIS GROWING DEMAND, BUT IS ALSO COGNIZANT THAT THE AVERAGE RATE CHARGED BY PRIVATE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS IN THE LOCAL MARKETPLACE WELL EXCEEDS \$16/HOUR. CONSEQUENTLY, POST REQUESTS AN INCREASE IN THIS AMOUNT TO \$15,600, OR 18 HOURS PER WEEK INSTRUCTION FOR 48 WEEKS AT A RATE OF \$18/HOUR, IN ORDER TO COVER BOTH INCREASED PARTICIPATION AND INCREASING COSTS OF INSTRUCTION. TO HELP KEEP COSTS DOWN, POST IS NOT REQUESTING FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION AS STUDENTS ARE WILLING TO SHARE THE COST OF TAXIS OR USE PERSONALLY-OWNED VEHICLES.

4. LANGUAGE PARTNER PROGRAM: AGAIN USING DFI FUNDS, THE PLP INTENDS TO CONTINUE A SUCCESSFUL NEW LANGUAGE PARTNER PROGRAM IN WHICH STUDENTS USE THE ARABIC LANGUAGE ONE-ON-ONE WITH A NATIVE SPEAKER IN AN INFORMAL, REAL WORLD SETTING SUCH AS AN OFFICE, MUSEUM OR CAFE. PARTICIPATING STUDENTS PAIR UP WITH AN APPROPRIATE JORDANIAN LANGUAGE PARTNER, AND THEN ARRANGE TO MEET TOGETHER ON A REGULAR BASIS TO PRACTICE THEIR ARABIC CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS. THESE "MICRO-IMMERSION" OPPORTUNITIES ALLOW STUDENTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JORDANIAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE. CURRENT PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY POSITIVE ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE, REMARKING THAT IT HAS BOOSTED THEIR LISTENING COMPREHENSION AND GIVEN THEM MORE CONFIDENCE TO TRY AND SPEAK IN ARABIC.

15. THE DFI HAS ALLOTTED \$4,050 FOR THE LANGUAGE PARTNER PROGRAM LAST YEAR, ALLOWING FOR 10.5 HOURS OF PARTNERING A WEEK (FOR 48 WEEKS) BASED ON A RATE OF \$8/HOUR. POST REQUESTS THIS SAME AMOUNT TO ALLOW PLP LANGUAGE PARTNER PARTICIPANTS TO SUSTAIN THEIR COMMITMENT.

16. LANGUAGE INTRODUCTION EVENINGS: IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICE (CLO), THE PLP SPONSORED TWO WELL-ATTENDED EVENING LECTURES THIS YEAR, PRESENTED BY A VETERAN LANGUAGE PROFESSOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN, DESIGNED TO GIVE NEW MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY COMMUNITY A CRASH COURSE IN ARABIC LANGUAGE SURVIVAL SKILLS. AUDIENCE MEMBERS, WHO WERE ALSO GIVEN A PRESENTATION BY THE CLO ON JORDANIAN CULTURE, WERE INTRODUCED TO BASIC ARABIC WORDS AND PHRASES TO EASE THEIR TRANSITION TO POST AND ENHANCE THEIR EXPERIENCE HERE. FOR TDYERS AND OTHER WHO CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PLP, THIS IS AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE.

17. DFI FUNDING LAST YEAR FOR THE LANGUAGE EVENINGS TOTALED \$210 FOR THE ESTIMATED COAST OF THE LECTURER AND RELATED SUPPLIES. POST REQUESTS \$210 FOR THIS PROGRAM THIS YEAR, ALL OF WHICH WILL GO FOR THE COST OF THE LECTURER; NO SPECIAL SUPPLY NEEDS ARE ANTICIPATED.

18. RESOURCE MATERIALS/SUPPLIES: THANKS TO PRIOR-YEAR DFI MONEY, POST HAS BEEN ABLE TO PURCHASE PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED BOOKS, AUDIOTAPES AND SUPPLIES. POST SEEKS THE PURCHASE OF ONE NEW INSTRUCTION BOOK OR AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCE RECOMMENDED BY FSI IN THE UPCOMING YEAR. BASED ON PAST PURCHASES, THIS COST WOULD TOTAL NO MORE THAN \$150.00. IN ADDITION, THE PLP REGULARLY REQUIRES STACKS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PAPER -- FOR THE PRINTING AND COPYING OF VOCABULARY CARDS, WORD LISTS, ETC. -- ESTIMATED TO COST APPROXIMATELY \$100 PER YEAR, FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$250.00.

19. TOTAL REQUEST: COMBINING THE INDIVIDUAL FUND REQUESTS ABOVE, POST CALCULATES AN OVERALL REQUEST OF \$20,110.00 BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: SITUATIONAL LEARNING/ FIELD TRIPS (\$15,600), LANGUAGE PARTNER PROGRAM (\$4,050), LANGUAGE INTRODUCTION EVENINGS (\$210) AND RESOURCES/SUPPLIES (\$250). POST WOULD LIKE TO THANK FSI FOR ITS CONTINUING SUPPORT TO EMBASSY AMMAN'S PLP, AS WELL AS FSI'S POSITIVE CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST. ANY QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO POST LANGUAGE OFFICER MADISON CONOLEY.

RUBINSTEIN